

allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye.

43. The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 wherein the fishing line further comprises:
a first section having a first end and a second end;
a second section having a first end and a second end;
the sliding loop formed on the first end of the first section; and
the second end of the first section releasably engaged with the first end of the second section.

44. The fishing apparatus of Claim 43 further comprising:
a first fixed loop formed on the second end of the first section;
a second fixed loop formed on the first end of the second section; and
the first fixed loop and the second fixed loop releasably engaged with each other.

45. The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 further comprising:
the sliding loop knot defined in part by a first loop and a second loop disposed adjacent to each other and adjacent to a central portion of the fishing line;
a free end of the fishing line wrapped multiple times around the central portion and through the first loop and the second loop and drawn away from the first loop and the second loop to form the sliding loop knot on the first end of the fishing line; and
the sliding loop knot operable for movement along the central portion of the fishing line to allow engaging and disengaging the sliding loop knot with the eye of the fishing device.

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed August 28, 2001 (Paper No. 20). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 10-22 and 40 and 41 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-9 and 23-39 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 10-22 and 40-41 were rejected. Claims 40 and 41 have been amended and new claims 42-45 added to further define various aspects of

Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

This Application claims the benefit of a provisional Application Serial No. 60/111,305 filed December 7, 1998. This application is also a continuation-in-part application based on application Serial No. 09/129,106 filed August 4, 1998, now U.S. Patent 5,970,650.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by "*The Uni-Knot*." Claims 17-18, 22, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,835,069 issued to A.J. Flye, Sr. (hereafter "*Flye, Sr.*"). Claims 10, 17-81 and 22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 41 has been amended to include various features of Applicant's sliding loop knot as shown in Figures 3A, 3B and 3C.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 11-12, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *The Uni-Knot* as applied to Claims 10, 17 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,672,701 issued to C.J. Smith (hereafter "*Smith*"). Claims 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *The Uni-Knot* as applied to Claim 10 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,336,087 issued to Leon L. Martuch et al. (hereafter "*Martuch et al.*"). Claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Flye Sr.*, as applied to Claim 11 above, and in further view of *The Uni-Knot*. Claims 11-12, 14, 15 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 40 has been amended to include various features of Applicant's invention as shown in Figures 3A, 3B and 3C.

Information Disclosure Statement

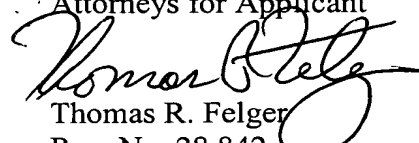
Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge and consider Reference "X" as included in the Information Disclosure Statement and cited on the PTO Form 1449 submitted September 17, 1999 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98. Applicant would like confirmation by the Examiner that the reference was considered by initialing Reference "X" on the copy of the enclosed page of the PTO Form 1449 received with the Office Action mailed October 3, 2000 (Paper No. 9).

CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of Claims 40 and 41 as amended and new claims 42- 45.

No fee appears to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P. If there are any matters concerning this application that could be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact the Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2599.

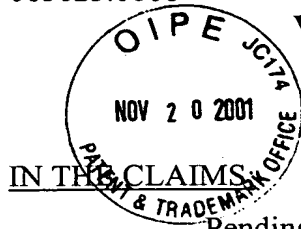
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Enclosure: Page from Information Disclosure Statement - PTO Form 1449 received with the Office Action mailed October 3, 2000 (Paper No. 9) sent in reference to item "X" "Orvis Fishing and Outdoor 1998, Pages 52-53, www.orvis.com".



Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

1

Pending claims of the present application are shown below in the marked-up version of the amendments to the claims.

Claims 1-9 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in response to an Election/Restriction Requirement and are subject to the filing of a divisional application.

Please cancel claims 10-22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 23-39 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in response to an Election/Restriction Requirement and are subject to the filing of a divisional application.

40. (Twice Amended) A fishing apparatus for releasable engagement with and disengagement from a first fishing device and engagement with and disengagement from a second fishing device comprising:

a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed on the first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;

the sliding loop knot defined in part by a first loop and a second loop disposed adjacent to each other and adjacent to a central portion of the fishing line;

the sliding loop and the sliding loop knot cooperating with each other to provide [providing] means for releasably engaging and disengaging the fishing line with the first fishing device and the second fishing device;

the fishing line having at least a first section and a second section;

the first section and the second section having respective first ends and second ends;

the first end of the first section corresponding with the first end of the fishing line with the sliding loop formed thereon;

a first fixed loop formed on the second end of the first section and a second fixed loop formed on the first end of the second section; and

the first fixed loop and the second fixed loop releasably engaged with each other.

41. (Twice Amended) A fishing apparatus for releasable engagement with and disengagement from a fishing device comprising:

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

2

a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed on the first end of the fishing line;

the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased and increased to respectively engage and disengage the fishing line and the [a] fishing device;

the sliding loop formed by a sliding loop knot defined in part by a first loop and a second loop;

the second loop formed adjacent to the first loop and adjacent to a central portion of the fishing line;

a free end of the fishing line wrapped around the central portion and through the first loop and the second loop multiple times;

[the first end of the fishing line wrapped through both the first loop and the second loop and around the central portion of the fishing line;]

the free [first] end of the fishing line drawn away from the first loop and the second loop to form the sliding loop knot[;] by drawing the first loop and the second loop together with each other and the central portion of the fishing line; and

the sliding loop knot operable to slide along the central portion of the fishing line to increase and decrease the diameter of the sliding loop.

Please add the following new claims.

--42. A fishing apparatus including a fishing device defined in part by a shank with a hook disposed at a first end of the shank and an eye disposed at a second end of the shank, the fishing apparatus comprising:

a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed on the first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;

the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from the shank to accommodate engagement and disengagement of the sliding loop with the eye;

the sliding loop knot operable to releasably engage and disengage the fishing line with the eye of the fishing device;

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

3

a blocker formed on the eye as an integral part thereof to prevent the sliding loop from sliding off of the eye; and

the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of the sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clinching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be increased by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye.

43. The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 wherein the fishing line further comprises:

a first section having a first end and a second end;

a second section having a first end and a second end;

the sliding loop formed on the first end of the first section; and

the second end of the first section releasably engaged with the first end of the second section.

44. The fishing apparatus of Claim 43 further comprising:

a first fixed loop formed on the second end of the first section;

a second fixed loop formed on the first end of the second section; and

the first fixed loop and the second fixed loop releasably engaged with each other.

45. The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 further comprising:

the sliding loop knot defined in part by a first loop and a second loop disposed adjacent to each other and adjacent to a central portion of the fishing line;

a free end of the fishing line wrapped multiple times around the central portion and through the first loop and the second loop and drawn away from the first loop and the second loop to form the sliding loop knot on the first end of the fishing line; and

the sliding loop knot operable for movement along the central portion of the fishing line to allow engaging and disengaging the sliding loop knot with the eye of the fishing device. --